(c) if so, whether Government are considering to enact a new law to stop child labour; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Child Labour is a socio economic problem primarily a result of poverty and illiteracy. Considering the nature and magnitude of the problem. Government is following a sequential approach of initially withdrawing and rehabilitating children working in hazardous occupations and processes. Children are also migrating for work to metropolitan cities from less developed areas of the country. Government is taking various measures for the rescue and rehabilitation of these children.

(b) Adequate provisions exist under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 to take action against those employing children in hazardous work. State Governments are appropriate authorities for enforcement of the provisions of the Act for the areas in their jurisdiction. During 1997-98 to 2005-06, 38.77 lakhs inspections were carried out in the country resulting in 87359 numbers of prosecutions and 30483 convictions.

(c) No such proposal is under the consideration of the Government.

(d) Does not arise.

Injustice to contract workers in ONGC

972. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware about the injustice to contract workers in ONGC, which is one of the biggest PSU in the country; and

(b) whether the Ministry ever monitored the functions of Central Labour Commissioner posted at Mumbai, Ahmedabad (Gujarat) and Assam with reference to the grievances of regular and contract workers in ONGC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) The Government is aware of violations of the provisions of the Contract Labour Act by various PSUs. Necessary remedial action is taken immediately to safeguard the interest of Contract Workers and to prevent the recurrence of such injustices in the future.

(b) The Ministry of Labour & Employment monitors regularly the functioning of its Offices of Chief Labour Commissioners (Central) located all over the country, including Mumbai, Ahmedabad (Gujarat) and Assam.

Unemployment allowance to unemployed

973. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the report of National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) highly educated persons are more unemployed than less educated persons;

(b) whether as per NSSO report half of the population of the country is unemployed;

(c) if so, the measures taken to create more job opportunities; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to pay unemployment allowance to unemployed persons according to their education and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) There is no such proposal to pay unemployment allowance to unemployed persons according to their education. The payment of unemployment allowance to unemployed persons would divert substantial resources from development programmes to a non-development activity. The resource of such a magnitude should better be used for development activities, which would generate substantial productive employment.

Misuse of funds meant for poor under NREG

974. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware about funding of records and pilfering of funds meant for poor under NREG Scheme in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons for non-implementation and waste of public money of NREG works in districts Chitrakoot, Jaunpur, Chandauli, etc. of Uttar Pradesh; and

(c) the name and designation of officer from Rural Ministry, Government of India who is supposed to look into monitoring and vigilance aspects in NREG funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Complaints have been received about alleged pilfering of funds meant for NREGS in the districts of Uttar Pradesh. These complaints have been forwarded to the State Government for examination, necessary action and report to the Ministry. Report from the State Government is awaited.

(c) Monitoring and Vigilance aspects of NREG funds are looked into by the NREGA Division in the Ministry of Rural Development.

Non-utilization of funds under TSC

975. SHRI ABU ASIMAZMI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received complaints about non-utilisation/misappropriation of funds allocated for construction of toilets under Total Sanitation Campaign;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) No complaint has been received by the Ministry of Rural Development about non-utilization or misappropriation of funds released under Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC). To improve the pace of utilization and implementation of the programme, the progress of expenditure is regularly monitored as part of the regular reviews in the form of Monthly Progress Reports, Quarterly Review Meetings with States and the Annual State Ministers Conference. Also, the implementation is checked by Review Mission constituted either by State or Centre, prior to further release of funds under the programme.